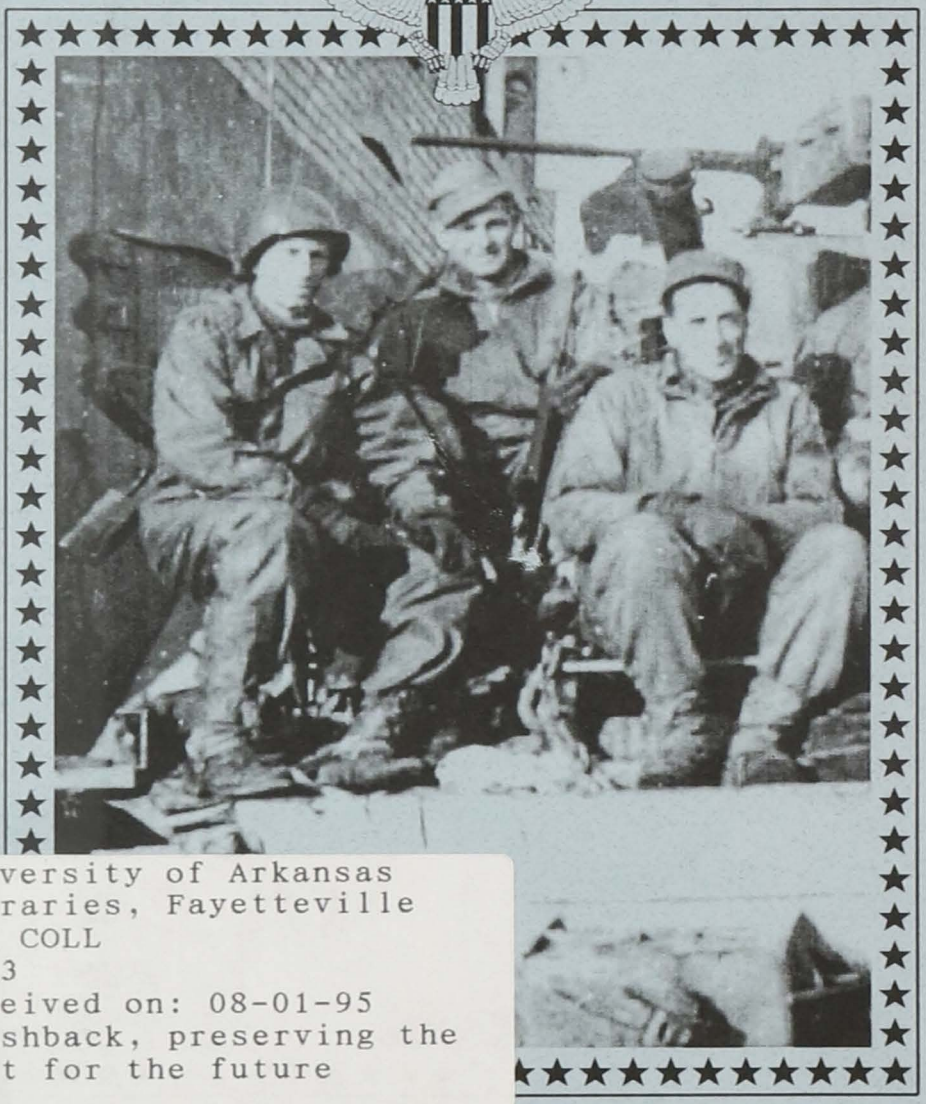
FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 45 August 1995 Number 3



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Cover photo: Quentin Skelton, Homer Sims, and Olik Kravick of the 12th Armored Division in France during World War II.

Leonard Quentin Skelton

43rd Tank Battalion - 12th Armored Division

by Keith Newhouse

Uncle Sam's long draft arm reached out for Quentin in October 1942 while he was in California. Skelton's family has a long history in Washington County, Ark., so it seemed ironic he was brought into the service from the West Coast.

He was born January 13, 1921 in Hazel Valley, Ark., where he still owns farmland. His granddad, John Robert Skelton, born August 17, 1860 and died May 24, 1937, settled in Hazel Valley, moving there from Fayetteville. His grandmother, Pelina Jane Stufflebeam, born January 20, 1862, died April 16, 1945. Quentin's father, Henry Eli Skelton, was born July 21, 1887 in Hazel Valley and died January 2, 1956.

Quentin's mother was Priscella Faye Anderson, of Ridgeway, Missouri, born June 15, 1895. She died June 17, 1976.

Alice Marie Wilson, born October 8, 1921, at Hazel Valley, married Quentin Skelton during his first furlough, April 17, 1943, in Springdale, Ark. Marie's mother was Bertha Anderson, born March 5, 1894 at Everton, Ark. She died November 28, 1982. Her father was Ernest Wilson, born February 9, 1893, at Health, Ark., (just east of Winslow). He died October 19, 1942.

Quentin and Marie's firstborn was a son, James Dwain, born August 31, 1944. The birth was just four days before the proud papa left for Camp Shank, N.Y. The boy was 17 months old when his father saw him next. The son was followed by a sister, Jacquelin, born May 22, 1948. Another sister, Shirley Marie, born July 27, 1957, and a brother, Ronald Quentin, followed on July 9, 1960. There are thirteen grandchildren as of this

Leonard Quentin Skelton

date (May 1995). To quote the family's head: "quite a bunch when all are home."

Quentin Skelton served with the 12th Armored Division which was activated September 15, 1942. The man-count was 12,000 when the outfit shipped over. It was known then as the "Hellcats".

Skelton was attached to the Service Company, 43rd Tank Battalion. This group followed right behind attacking tanks, keeping them supplied with ammunition, artillery shells, gasoline, supplies and had equipment to make field repairs with cranes to right tanks when they were tipped out of commission.

What follows is a shortened account of the division's combat experience from December 3, 1944, through May 5, 1945. Corporal Skelton wants to make it clear he does not consider himself a hero, but merely one of the lucky survivors. He dedicates this telling to the gallant members, living and dead, of the 12th Division.

The entire division moved into the line on December 7, 1944, launched its first attack the following day in the Alsace and Lorraine area of France. The weather was bitter, icy cold. As a result more men were out of action from trench foot than from the stubborn Germans. Tough as conditions were through December, the 12th took every assigned objective as it cracked Maginot Line defenses. A brief respite on Christmas day ill-prepared the Hellcats for what was to be their bloodiest chapter.

This dismal scene took place at Herrlisheim, France,

from January 8 to January 20, 1945. Under the German code name "Northwind" the Krauts made four offensive efforts to bolster their sagging morale. One of the major efforts was in the Gambsheim Bridgehead near Herrlisheim and Gambsheim, France. It was here that the 12th took its worst beating.

Two factors brought on the debacle. The area was decidedly not tank terrain and the enemy's strength was underrated. What was estimated to be a small force of inferior quality was actually two divisions, the 10th SS Panzer Div. and the 553rd Volksgrenadier Div., both well experienced and highly skilled—organized to defend their bridgehead.

Because of poor intelligence reports, the initial attack by units of the 12th was of insufficient strength, and proved very costly. Some men managed to fight their way into Herrlisheim on January 9. They held one-third of the town, but heavy fire with accompanying casualties forced their withdrawal the next night.

Once the enemy's full strength and firepower was determined, the entire division was committed., Tankers of the 43rd Tank Bn. and troops of the 17th Armd. Inf. Bn. thrust into Herrlisheim from several directions, hoping to meet at the town's center. They never met. The Jerries captured large groups of both battalions. Many were killed.

Major General Roderick R. Allen, commanding general, ordered an attack on January 18 to relieve elements still fighting in town, but was unable to break through German forces.

The Hellcats withdrew to defensive positions. Learning that the enemy had shifted more crack troops to the area, preparations were made to repulse the anticipated Nazi counter-attacks. These attacks came in wave after wave of combined tank and infantry troops.

Miraculously, the 12th held and threw the Heinies back. There was no breakthrough at Herrlisheim. The battle cost one-third of its combat efficiency, and around 1,700 reinforcements were required to bring the division up to normal strength.

An unofficial report gave the 12th Armored credit for having contained from six to seven German divisions during the performance. It earned the respect of some of the best troops in the German army, who grudgingly honored the division with a new title: Suicide Division.

The last days of January were spent with terrible road conditions, caused by the worst snowstorm they had yet experienced in France. Under these circumstances, the Hellcats continued to re-equip with new men, vehicles, and supplies, all the while planning for a counter-attack.

In spite of the mauling the outfit took at Herrlisheim, the 12th Division played a major role in routing the Germans from their last stronghold in France–the Colmar pocket, south of Strasbourg.

Colmar was a strategic military stronghold that the infamous Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo general, had promised to keep and to take Strasbourg for Hitler as a Nazi Party 12th birthday gift.

The Hellcats were loaned to the French First Army under Marshall Tassigney. Colmar was liberated by Allied troops on 2 February 1945. The next day, the 12th was ordered to attack south and east to join the French moving up from the south to seal off the remaining Nazis. Against desperate, but sporadic, resistance the 12th raced southward. On February 5, the Hellcats made contact with the French and snapped shut the trap around the Colmar pocket.

In this lightning three-day drive, 300 Germans were killed, 850 wounded, and 548 captured, while the 12th Division lost 23 killed-in-action. This action gave them a

12th Armored Division tank crew in the winter of 1944-45 in France, left to right: Quentin Skelton, Homer Sims, Olik Kravick, Nicholas Varna, and Danny Stowers.

well-deserved rest in the St. Avold, France area.

By mid-March, the 12th Armor Div. was secretly transferred from the 7th Army to General Patton's 3rd Army, and was for a time referred to as "The Mystery Division". The brief assignment to Patton was to accomplish a race to the Rhine, capturing as many towns and troops as possible because of its blistering pace. General Gerd VonRundstedt stated "The defeat of Germany was quickened by the speed of American armor." The Krauts were caught flat-footed all the way across the Palatinate.

The Hellcats crossed the Rhine early on 28 March, four days after being reverted back to the 7th Army. They continued to spearhead the race into Germany, meeting light resistance, gathering up thousands of prisoners, but never being successful at capturing a bridge intact until April 22 at Dillingen, Germany.

By sweeping into town unexpectedly, Task Force II of the 12th routed more than 1,000 defenders, shot up a retreating mechanized column, and surged onto the bridge over the Danube. The unit captured a handful of demolition men and drove other Nazis away before the span could be blown. It was while crossing this bridge, Skelton's service company, following right behind the attacking tanks, that Quentin had what he thinks was his closest call. A German plane made two low passes, raking the troops with machine-gun fire on the first; the second time Jerry obviously was going to unload a bomb, but he was hit by tank guns. He crashed and blew up about 40 yards from Skelton's position on the just captured bridge.

The Hellcats proudly erected a sign at the northern approach: "You are crossing the beautiful Blue Danube through the courtesy of the 12th Armored Division". Corporal Skelton felt it should have read "crossing the Big Muddy" at the time.

All during April and up to May 8, 1945 (the day of German's unconditional surrender) the division's speedy advance allowed them to capture 63,013 prisoners of war after the Rhine River crossing. One day alone–May 3, 1945–12,035 Krauts, including nine generals, were captured.

Nearly 8,500 Allied POWs (1,500 were Americans) were freed by the 12th Armored. Also, 20,000 non-military prisoners gained freedom as the division routed Germans from their stronghold. These latter people were mostly political or Jewish victims. Entering one camp, the Hellcats saw the bodies of 300, mostly Jews, slain when their guards fled to avoid capture. In these concentration camps, Skelton observed men and women so starved they were literally skin stretched over bones. One of his company offered a standing skeleton a C-

ration biscuit. The poor soul ate it and dropped dead before the unbelieving soldiers. Bodies were piled like a horrible tangle of cordwood in camp after camp. Today, revisionists are trying to say none of this took place. Skelton states, "Let me tell you, it happened!"

There had to be some humorous incidents to relieve the rotten weather and the terrible actuality of combat. To Quentin, one outstanding incident concerned a few guys who managed to hijack a tugboat loaded with champagne. Its captain insisted he'd have to have some evidence of his turning the cargo over under protest. A sergeant with the lucky bunch signed the claiming bill, "Major T. S." Unfortunately, the gang was found out before they could hide the treasure. To avoid real trouble, they were forced to destroy the evidence. They poured out or broke every bottle. For several days, every fish pulled from that stream had a happy smile. Incidentally, that "bubbly" was on the way to Hitler's upcoming birthday party.

Skelton gratefully brags 216 of his company were the luckiest men in the ETO; everyone came through without a scratch. He further claims, "The army is a good education. If you remember what they teach you, you can deal with anybody."

The day of Germany's surrender, May 8, 1945, was quietly, prayerfully celebrated in the European Theater, because our troops were already training and mentally preparing for a worse ordeal ahead–the job of subduing the Japanese in their homeland.

CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF QUENTIN AND ALICE SKELTON

James Dwain Skelton, b. Aug. 31,1944 at Fayetteville; m. Mary Ann Paap, Feb. 24, 1966 at First Methodist Church, Springdale, Ark. Their children are Michell

Renne Skelton, b. June 24, 1967, Memphis, Tenn.; Louis Carl Skelton, born June 10, 1970, Springdale, m. Kristy McAnelly, July 31, 1993, at First Methodist Church, Springdale; Anna Marie Skelton, b. June 298, 1977, Fayetteville; Joseph Dwain Skelton, b. Sept. 17, 1979, Fayetteville.

Jacquelin Skelton, b. May 22, 1948, Fayetteville, m. Norman C. Long, July 5, 1969, First Methodist Church, Springdale. Their children are Cheryl Melissa Long, b. May 28, 1979, Oklahoma City, Okla., and Stephanie Marie Long, b. Sept. 14, 1981, Oklahoma City.

Quentin and Alice Marie Skelton on their 50th Wedding Anniversary April 17, 1993

Shirley Marie Skelton b. July 27, 1957, Springdale, m. Rick Jackson, at First Methodist Church, Springdale. Their children are Jama Nacloe Jackson, b. Dec. 30, 1975, Fayetteville, Stuart Anthony Jackson, b. Nov. 25, 1983, Tulsa, Okla., and Sean Spencer Jackson, b. Aug. 13, 1985, Tulsa.

Ronald Quentin Skelton, b. July 9, 1960, Springdale, m. Linda Carolyn Haisty, Mar.22, 1980, First Methodist Church Springdale. Their children are Jessica Layne Skelton, b. June 11, 1981, Fayetteville, Quentin Neal Skelton, b. Oct. 11, 1985, Oklahoma City; Ronald Bryce Skelton, b. Sept. 1, 1989, Fayetteville.

"WILD BILL" HEFFINGTON
and the WESTERN BUSHWHACKERS

By Loren Adams

It was a cold, bleak February day in Northwest Arkansas. The year was 1863. A band of 100 horsemen came thundering across the Boston Mountains approaching Fayetteville from the south. Leading the pack was William J. Heffington, commonly known as "Wild Bill." His reputation as the most notorious bushwhacker west of the Mississippi preceded him. He and his followers had developed a secret military base on the side of Magazine Mountain in caves, known as "Snake Knob," from which they launched raids against both Confederate and Union forces, civilian and military. Yet the Union Army at Fayetteville's Headquarters House welcomed him with open arms. What was it about this man that caused them to turn a blind eye to his past?

Interpretive sketch of **William J. ("Wild Bill") Heffington** based on faded photo (1830-1863) that been retouched. Sketch by Keith Newhouse, 1995.

Early Life

Born 1830 in Wayne County, Tennessee, William J. McBride (Heffington) was the son of Louisa McBride. His biological father allegedly was Henry Heffington (son of Archibald Heffington), although there are no confirming records. The Heffingtons originated from South Carolina during the 18th century.

Five children were born to Louisa McBride out of wedlock, supposedly fathered by Henry Heffington. Only three can be verified: William J. McBride (b 1830), James Jackson McBride ("Stringer Jim" or Jackie" b 1838; never married), and Ann (Polly Ann) or Mary A. McBride (b 1842; married Alex Smith).

Legend states that "Wild Bill," upon discovering his biological father, changed his surname to "Heffington," as later did his siblings. This discovery and subsequent name change could have been "Wild Bill's" root of bitterness.

In c1842 Louisa McBride migrated with her children west across the Mississippi to the mountains of Arkansas. Marrying Hough Shott in 1842, she mothered seven more children: (1) Joseph Shott, b 1844; (2) Jehu (Jay Hugh) Shott, b 1845; (3) Charles Shott, b 1848; (4) Eliza (Lizzie) Ann [Shott] Britt, b 1851; (5) John Shott, b 1856; (6) Pettus (Pet) Shott, b ?; (7) Maude Shott, b ?.

On January 9, 1850, Wild Bill married Elizabeth Tennessee Britt, daughter of Elizabeth Britt Massongill and half-sister to Henry A. Massongill. In that census year the newlyweds were shown as living in the home of Elizabeth Britt Massongill in Riley Township, Yell County, at the foot of Mount Magazine. As yet, Wild Bill had not converted his name from "McBride."

Children born to Wild Bill and Elizabeth Tennessee Britt Heffington were:

Calvin Heffington, born the 7th day of April 1852
Lavina "Vinie" Heffington, born the 21st day of October 1854
Lorenzo Heffington, born the 25th day of January, 1857
Elizabeth Heffington, born the 19th day of January 1859
Marianna. Heffington, born the 3nd day of September 1861
Wm T. C. Heffington (female), born the 16th day of March 1864

These were pioneer days. Crude log houses, wild game, illiteracy, Indians, hard times. . . It was a struggle to survive. A minor feud would develop into a lethal

shooting match or knife fight to the death. The Civil War dawned on Arkansas to a people almost as rugged as displaced Cherokees to the West.

Civil War in Northwest Arkansas

At war's onset Wild Bill Heffington emerged as the leader to mountainmen. Something in his personal stature must have appealed to local character, or perhaps he was just superfluous or was "blessed" with the gift of gab. From every slope of Magazine Mountain men joined Wild Bill's company. The year was 1861, and the military unit was the Confederate 17th Regiment Arkansas Infantry (Lemoyne's), Company F. Wild Bill enlisted under General W.L. Cabell, C.S.A. (later - mayor of Dallas) and Captain S. Horne in Yell County. The regiment was later changed to 21st Regiment, Company E, as Wild Bill was promoted from First Sergeant to Second Lieutenant. Seemingly, the same 100 men who followed Heffington into the Confederate Army defected with him to the Union Army at Fayetteville a year later.

The Switch

Loyalties failed to run deep among mountainmen who long mistrusted aristocratic plantation owners in the rich river valleys. Although they found themselves in Confederate ranks, many thousand later joined Union forces, most notably at Fayetteville in 1863. The battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove were determining factors for switching, indeed, but other catalysts were at work. It was on May 20, 1862, that Heffington deserted the South. Perhaps the Southern defeat at Pea Ridge made up his mind. Little has been written about the whole story, however, for Heffington and his men were infamous bushwhackers – mercilessly preying on Union, Rebel, and independent farms and households.

WRITTEN HISTORY ABOUT THE LIFE OF "WILD BILL" HEFFINGTON

"William J. `Wild Bill' Heffington of Yell County was a well known Union guerrilla leader who operated along the Arkansas River Valley, but who occasionally appeared in northwest Arkansas. He was a cool and daring woodsman who deserted from the Confederate Army and rallied a bold band of followers. Wild Bill apparently was loyal to the Union and cooperated with the Federals. Yet he and his band of jayhawkers were primarily freebooters who terrorized the area with their killing and robbing. The band caused a panic in Dardanelle by making their bold depredations within three miles of town. In early June 1863, Wild Bill and his gang, some 125 strong and aided by a small force of Federals, held a fortified position on Magazine Mountain and defied a Confederate cavalry force which had been sent against them." (*Arkansas State Gazette*, Little Rock, June 13, 1863)

"As in most old towns there are those who like to boast that Belleville could have had a college at one time had she wished to have male and female classes. Her leaders were said to have feared a moral let down with such an experiment. True to her convictions she has never voted wet, using local option elections when the rest of this county voted wet. South and west of Belleville, was Monrovia, a settlement now forgotten. Here Federal troops held prisoners, until they were removed to Fort Smith, during the Rebellion. Since no large operations were conducted in this area, it be assumed that prisoners were guerrillas. West of this latter place `Wild Bill' Heffington, made his home. So inhuman were his actions as a bushwhacker and Federal officer that he held the valley in fear." (*The History of Yell County*, page 172)

Where "Wild Bill" Acquired His Nickname

During the interim period from desertion May 1862 to Union enlistment at Fayetteville in March 1863,

Heffington was believed to have fully formed his roving group of mountainmen. They gained the notorious distinction as the "wildest bushwhackers west of the Mississippi." And for good reason.

Reports, both written and legend, suggest that Wild Bill's men raided a Union encampment at Indian Springs near Dardanelle, killed every soldier, stripped them of uniforms, then rode into Dardanelle wearing Union gear – only to raid Confederates. How much of this story is true is unknown. However, written accounts and documents of the time suggest his name was well deserved.

Elizabeth Brown Massongill (1843-1920), wife of Henry A. Massongill and sister-in-law to "Wild Bill." She assisted Heffington's men by gathering supplies and preparing meals in the valley below the mountain cave hide-out. She and other female relatives signaled the men when the "coast was clear" by hanging sheets on the line. Her brothers were also followers and soldiers of Heffington for both South and North and after the War migrated (in part to escape persecution) to California via Buffalo Bill Cody's wagon train. She was half Cherokee. Photo taken c1864

Ventures From Snake Knob

Before officially joining Union forces, Heffington and his men continued to conduct raids for eight months (June 1862 - February 1863) from their cave base at Snake Knob attached to Magazine Mountain. Also during the months of June through August 1863 Wild Bill's gang again inhabited their cave hide-out.

Here folklore agrees that wives, sisters, and mothers of Heffington's band would keep vigil for

the men by hanging sheets out when conditions were safe for the renegades to come down into the valley (Petit Jean) for supplies or meals.

Headquarters House - 1863

Leading his men across the mountains, Wild Bill joined Union forces in February 1863 at Headquarters House (Jonas Tebbetts' home) in Fayetteville. Evidently Colonel James M. Johnson overlooked his ugly bushwhacker reputation. Records reveal that Wild Bill was mustered in March 20th as Captain of Company I, First Infantry, Union Army.

Less than a month later, Heffington's old Southern boss, General W.L. Cabell, staged a surprise attack from his perch looking down on the city from atop East Mountain. The Battle of Fayetteville began at dawn, April 16, 1863, with the firing of two cannons placed on East Mountain (Mount Sequoyah) and was shortly followed by a cavalry charge which almost reached Headquarters House. Did General Cabell realize that his former lieutenant, William J. Heffington, was below at Headquarters House as he surveyed the scene from atop East Mountain?

Many of Heffington's company, however, were quickly ushered to the edge of Fayetteville because they had not been issued rifles or equipment for defense. The battle for Fayetteville continued all morning, as Union forces silenced Confederate cannons on the mountain and fought house to house along Dickson Street and College Avenue. By 11:00 a.m. Confederates relinquished the struggle and retreated south. The intersection of the battle has been known as Bloody Corner ever since. (Kent A. Brown, *Fayetteville - A Pictorial History*, Page 20, Norfolk, VA, Donning Comp Publishers, 1982)

First Arkansas Infantry Historical Memoranda

From Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Arkansas by Albert W. Bishop, Adjutant General of Arkansas, 1867

In Yell County, William J. Heffington, well known in western Arkansas as "Wild Bill," maintained himself with a band of these men for months, when the surrounding country was held by the enemy, and repeated efforts were made for his capture. Afterwards reporting to Colonel Johnson with a number of his men, who were organized into a company with himself as captain, he again moved southward of the Boston Mountains, and crossing the Arkansas River, was preparing to conduct other citizens to the federal lines, when he heard of the abandonment of northwestern Arkansas by Union forces (April, 1863), and determined to remain in the State. This he did until August following when he was killed by guerrillas near the Arkansas River while going northward to procure relief for a large number of the Union men of this section of the State, who banded together in the vicinity of the Magazine, Short, and Petit Jean Mountains, were successfully resisting all attempts at their capture. After the death of Heffington these men still held together, and on the occupation of Fort Smith and Little Rock by the Union forces, in September following, the most of them enlisted in various Arkansas regiments, the 1st infantry among the number.

...Aside from operations of the regiment embraced in this brief resume, detachments were frequently sent out to succor Union men – a duty which, from their familiarity with the country, they were particularly well qualified to discharge. In September 1863, it became known at Fort Smith that several hundred men of this class had gathered together from the surrounding country, upon and near the Magazine mountain, whither they had been compelled to flee for security, and though generally having arms of their own, were much in need of ammunition. To relieve them, Captain William C. Parker, of the 1st Arkansas Infantry, was directed to proceed

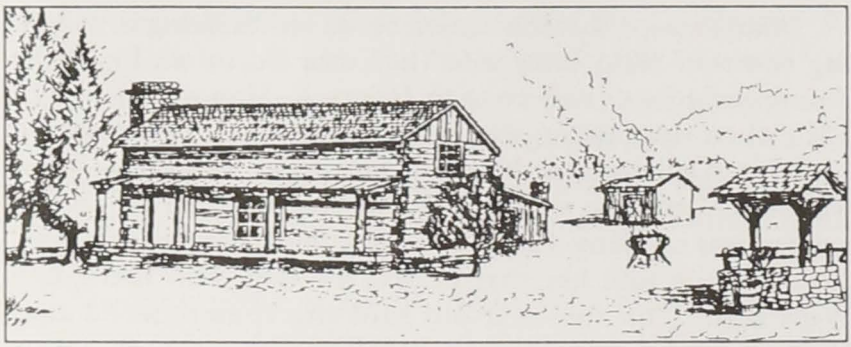
with sixty men to their rendezvous; which he did, accomplishing the object for which he was sent. On his return, while crossing Haguewood Prairie in Franklin County, he was suddenly confronted by the rebel General Shelby's command, then moving northward on his well-known raiding expedition into Missouri. A stubborn fight ensued, Captain Parker slowly falling back until he reached the timber, where the unequal contest was still carried on, until, finding himself nearly surrounded, he directed his men to escape as best they could. In this encounter he lost twenty-two men killed and taken prisoners, but killing and wounding nearly the same number of the enemy. Captain Parker himself succeeded with the rest of his men in arriving safely at Fort Smith, with instant measures being taken by Colonel Johnson to advise Colonel Harrison, then commanding at Fayetteville, of Shelby's march northward, the intelligence was quickly circulated through southwestern Missouri, and Shelby's movement was in great measure frustrated.

Last Four Months of Heffington's Life

Ironically after the Fayetteville victory, Union forces were given orders from St. Louis to retreat to Springfield, Missouri, on April 25th. The march to Springfield from Fayetteville was the most arduous of the war for Northwest Arkansas Union troops. While on the trek to Missouri, several of Heffington's men contracted flu viruses and died. Many are buried at the National Cemetery at Springfield.

It is unclear whether Heffington remained with his company or retreated to his base on Magazine Mountain. However, several of his men were recorded to have been at Springfield and Indian Territory before returning to Snake Knob on the mountain.

Compounding Company I's misery was the fact that Confederates put a high price on their heads for desertion and enlistment with the North. It was Southern



Massongill Homestead at the base of Mount Magazine
Constructed by Henry A. Massongill near Ashley Creek. Described by Amos F. Adams of Fayetteville (1894-1994), and sketched by Loren Adams The log home, well, and smokehouse were built by Massongill at the end of the Civil War. During the time perod, the homestead was in an area known as "Southern Home," 1.5 miles southeast of Blue Mountain and 1 mile south of "The Narrows." Heffington's POW camp and base were near the Massongill Homestead.

procedure to execute any Union soldier who was discovered to have previously served the Confederacy. At one time the price on Heffington's head alone was $15,000.

In the summer of 1863, Heffington's company marched from Springfield, Missouri to Fort Blount and Fort Gibson in Indian Territory. Next they returned to their hidden base on the southside of Mount Magazine, highest point of Arkansas. It was at Snake Knob on the mountain that Heffington received final orders to return to Cassville, Missouri. "Wild Bill" left the mountain to return to Missouri.

At the Arkansas River crossing at Mulberry "Wild Bill" Heffington was captured by Confederate sympathizers on August 15, 1863 and was hung from a tree over the river. Rumors of the time say that Heffington's cousins were among the enemy executors, including some McBrides from Tennessee who then resided in Yell County. Heffington's body was never found. It was a "Civil War," but also had aspects of a family feud.

"Marie stated that she remembered vividly being in the living room of Wild Bill's wife (her own Grandma Elizabeth Tennessee Jones [half-sister to Henry A. Massongill]) about 1910 when she (Marie) was about 5 years old. A man named McBride (Caleb — she thought) came to see Grandma. Jones who was sitting in a rocker by the fireplace. The elderly woman was smoking a long stemmed, 'high bowled' cob pipe. Mr. McBride told her that he was the man who had killed Wild Bill. The five-year-old said she remembered that Grandma showed no emotion whatsoever.

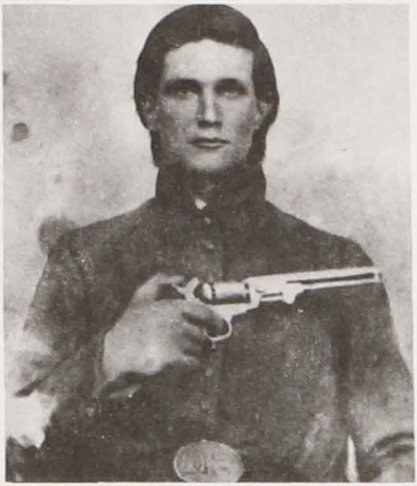
–Recollections of Marie Jackson, Booneville, AR, to Dr. & Mrs. Glen Farmer, Florence, Alabama, April 1979

Vengeance Continues After War

War did not end hostilities. Heffington's men remained under a death threat from Confederate loyalists.

On October 19, 1868, "Wild Bill" Heffington's brother-in-law, Henry Massongill was murdered in a knife fight with a McBride, possibly Heffington's assassin, because of the lingering hatred.

Brothers-in-law to Henry Massongill immediately made plans to join a California-bound wagon train with Buffalo Bill Cody after Massongill's murder because they also had served under "Wild Bill" in both the Confederate and



Henry A. Massongill, brother-in-law and compatriot soldier with WilliamJ. ("Wild Bill") Heffington for both the South and North. Born 1843, murdered 1868. In Confederate fatigues, 17th Infantry C.S.A., c1861. Confederate soldiers were known to have worn "U.S." belt buckle upside down as display of rebellion. Pistol - Navy Colt 1851

Union companies and felt threatened. Henry A. Massongill's death was the "handwriting on the wall" to many of Heffington's men. Lorenzo K. and Ambrose S. (Sevier) Brown with their families left Fort Smith via Buffalo Bill's wagon train in March 1869 for Gridley, California. The Underwood and Donahoo families from Yell County accompanied them.

The complete story of "Wild Bill" Heffington will never be told. As colorful and infamous as his short life was, records are incomplete or sketchy. On the other hand, oral and written accounts passed down from generations, then pieced together like a puzzle, have yielded more perspective.

Heffington's band raided homes and camps on both sides of the conflict. In post-war years, victims and their relatives never forgot. Though Heffington was hung in 1863, his men still sensed and experienced the aftermath of bushwhacking days. So, they migrated west or lived in low profile throughout the late 19th century.

The Men of Company I

First Infantry, Union Army

U.S. CIVIL WAR

March 1863 - August 1865

Headquarters House, Fayetteville, Arkansas

The following list of men were led by Captain William J. Heffington, commonly known as "Wild Bill" Heffington. The majority were from the vicinity of Magazine Mountain at the time of the Civil War and during that time were stationed at a hidden base at Snake Knob on the southside of the mountain. 146 men are listed below. Many of these had followed "Wild Bill," deserting from a Confederate unit in Yell County the year prior.

ADAMS, George W., 22, Meigs Co TN
ADAY, Booze J., 18
ANGEL, James M., 18
ANGEL, John, 19, Johnson Co AR CORP
BARB, David W., 31
BAKER, Samuel N., Winchester, Franklin Co TN
BANE, John A., 23, Monroe Co TN
BARD, Samuel, 23, LT/CAPTAIN
BELL, Eli, 19
BENNETT, William S.
BERNA, John W. 23
BLACK, Marcus, 21, Montgomery Co AR CORP/PVT
BLEVINS, Pleasant, 38, Jackson Co TN
BRIDGES, Freeling H., 18, Weakley Co TN
BRITT, James B., 29, Pulaski Co AR
CAGLE, Charles T., 23, AR
CANTER, George W.
CAPPS, James I, 43, Crawford Co AR
CARTER, William A., 26, Haywood Co TN
CLAY, Debrill T., 18
COLVERT, Benjamin F., 27
COLVERT, Isaac W., 24, Calhoun Co AR
COLVERT, Joseph G., 18
COLVERT, William I., 53
CONYER, Thomas, 41, Wilson Co TN
COOPER, George W., 27, DeKalb Co AL
CRADDOCK, William, 18, Crawford Co AR
DEADWILEY, Martin, 26, Campbell Co GA, SGT
EAST, Martin, 23, IL
FINDLEY, Christopher, 27, Gibson Co TN, CORP/PVT
FINK, George, 35, Stanly Co NC
FINK, Levi, 18
FOWLER, William, Hardin Co TN
FRY, Andrew J., 22, Ray Co TN, PVT/SGT
FRY, Calvin M., 24
GANN, Robert, 34, Hamilton Co TN
GANN, Vinyard, 19, Hamilton Co TN
GAZAWAY, Thomas, 27
GRAVES, Alonzo, 19, MO, SGT/PVT
GRIFFIN, William P., 28, IL
HALE, Melvin C.
HALL, George W., 29, Tipton Co TN
HALL, Harvey, 23, Montgomery Co AR
HALL, James C., 18, Montgomery Co AR
HARRIS, Samuel I., 42, Anderson Dist. SC
HAWKINS, William H., 34
HEFFINGTON, William J., 33, CAPTAIN
HENSON, David F., 22
HENSON, David W.
HINTON, _____
HODGES, John T., 18, Memphis TN
HOLT, John W., 17, Crawford Co AR
HOWARD, William D., 30
HUDSON, William J.
HURLEY, Jacob, 35, MO
JACKSON, Silas M., 28, Hardeman Co TN
JOHNSON, Eli, 30, Cherokee Co AL
JOHNSON, John, 31, Crawford Co AR
JONES, William N., 24, Carroll Co TN
KEELAND, John H., 20, Carroll Co AR
KEELAND, William R., 22, Carroll Co AR
KERR, John, 18, MO
KERSEY, George R., 18, Pickens Co AL
KERSEY, George W., 23, Franklin Co AR
KERSEY, Thomas, 21, Franklin Co AR
KIBLER, John B., 43, Wurttenburg, Germany
KIRK, Samuel, 18, Crawford Co AR
KIRKWOOD, John H., 18, McMinn Co TN
LANDER, Robert V., 29, 1st LT
LASSON, George A., 18, Crawford Co AR
LEWIS, Richard, 28, Crawford Co AR
LIGHTFOOT, John, 21, DeSoto Co MS

LIGHTFOOT, Rufus, 36, Wake Co NC
LITTLE, Wiley, 20, MO
LISK, George W.
MASSONGILLE, Henry, 19, Yell Co AR, SGT/PVT
MATHEWS, Archibald, 25
McBRIDE, James, 26, Shelby Co TN, 1st SGT/1st LT
McCLANDSON, James, 40
McCLANDSON, Leonard, 25
McCLENDON, John E., 17
MINTON, John R.
MITCHELL, William, 25, Fayette Co AL PVT/CORP
MITCHELL, William, 18
MORGAN, George H., Gibson Co TN, PVT/SGT
MORGAN, John B., 23
MORGAN, John F., 35
MORGAN, William T., 20
OEHLER, Paul C., 40, Wurttenburg, Germany
OOLEY, William P., 23
OSBORN, Jesse
PETERS, Andrew J., 21
PETERS, Hiram, 29, Jackson Co AL
PETERS, Michael, 22
PETERS, William
POOL, Augustus C., 34, SC
PRIDDY, John C., 37, Montgomery Co AR
RANSOM, William, 16, Louisville KY
RAY, Francis M.
ROBINSON, Darling G., 23, Independence Co AR, CORP/PVT
ROBINSON, Isaac, 33, Wayne Co MO
ROBINSON, Jacob, 18, Independence Co AR
ROBINSON, John R., 28, Wayne Co MO
ROGERS, Edley J., 28, Hamilton Co TN
ROGERS, Henry, 53, [Lee Co VA]
ROGERS, John A., 33, Hamilton Co TN, CORP/CORP
ROGERS, Joseph J., 18, Carroll Co GA
ROSS, Perry, 44, MO
SCOTT, William, 16, Crawford Co AR
SHARP, John A., 31, Madison Co MO
SHELTON, John, 21, Crawford Co AR, SGT.
SHREWDER, William S., 20, Johnson Co AR, 2nd SGT/PVT
SHULTS, Wiley
SHUMAKER, Frederick, 38, Prussia
SISK, George W., 18, Pope Co AR
SNILLING, Jonathon
SNYDER, George W., 21
SPENCER, James M.
SPENCER, John
SPIVA, Jonas B.
SPRINGSTON, Linton, 27, CORP/SGT
STEELE, Francis M., 23
STEPHENS, Sherod A., 23, Madison Co MO
STRAIT, Powhattan, 44, Allen Co KY
SWILLING, George W., 18, Chattooga Co GA
SWILLING, John H., 23, CORP
TERRY, Aaron C., 29, 1st LT
THOMPSON, Aaron L., 27, 1st SGT/1st LT
TOOLER, _____
TOOLEY, William
TRUITT, John W., 16, Crawford Co AR
WEGAN, _____
WELLS, George W., 22
WELLS, William, 18, Crawford Co AR
WEST, _____
WHITE, _____
WHITE, Barry H.
WHITE, Burrill T., 18, Gordon Co GA
WHITE, Thomas R., 21, Franklin Co AR
WHITE, Wilson C. 20, Ringold, Catoosa [Walker] Co GA
WHITEFORD, John, CAPTAIN
WHITELY, Henry, 24
WIGGINS, Isaac, 27
WILLIAMS, Willis, 19, MO
WYNN, Josiah, 33, Crawford Co AR
YOUNG, James, 39, Crawford Co AR, CORP/PVT

For the preceding list of **The Men on Company I,** credits are extended to Heffington descendants and students who conducted research over a period of 50 years: Mrs. Mary Belcher (Belleville, AR), Dr. & Mrs. Glen Farmer (Florence, AL), Mrs. Nikki Wade (Little Rock, AR), and Mrs. Fern Davidson (North Little Rock, AR), Mr. Tom Fowler (Hayward, CA), Mrs. Marion Waller (Gridley, CA), Mr. and Mrs. Carthon Phillips (Austin, TX). Credits are also extended to Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries.

"`Wild Bill' of the Magazine Mountain, spurning the overtures of General Cabell, has appeared at Fayetteville, and the influence of his name in Yell and adjoining counties, is felt in constant dripping of the waters of persecution into the great ocean of human freedom."

Fayetteville, March 1863

From a military officer's journal *Loyalty on the Frontier* or *Sketches of Union Men of the Southwest,* by A.W. Bishop, 1863, pg. 204.

"William J. Heffington, of Yell County, well known in Arkansas as `Wild Bill,' a cool, daring, intelligent woodsman, who, unwillingly in the rebel service, had remained there long enough to become disgusted with it, and then betaking himself to his home near the Magazine Mountains, had rallied the bold spirits of the neighborhood, appeared with a band of followers, loyal all to the Stripes and Stars."

Loyalty on the Frontier or *Sketches of Union Men of the Southwest,* by A.W. Bishop, 1863, pg. 209.

CONFEDERATE RECORDS

William J. Heffington, 1st Sergeant, Company F, 17 Reg't Arkansas Infantry. Appears on Company Muster Roll of the organization named above for December 18, 1861 to January 27, 1862, Roll dated April 28, 1862.

Enlisted: December 28, 1861
Yell County, Arkansas
By Samuel W. Williams
For period of 12 months
Remarks: Elected to 2nd Lieutenant 24th of April 1862
Signed: J.W. Wilkinson, copyist

William Heffington, 2nd Lieutenant, Company E,
21 Reg't Arkansas Infantry – Confederate
Appears on
Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above,
for December 28, 1861 to June 30, 1862.
Enlisted: Dec. 28, 1861
At Wilson's Store
By James Bone, Esq.
Period of 12 months
Last paid:
By whom: Capt. S. Horne
To what time: May 18, 1862
Remarks: Discharged May the 20, 1862

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
I William J. Heffington of Company F in 17th Reg.

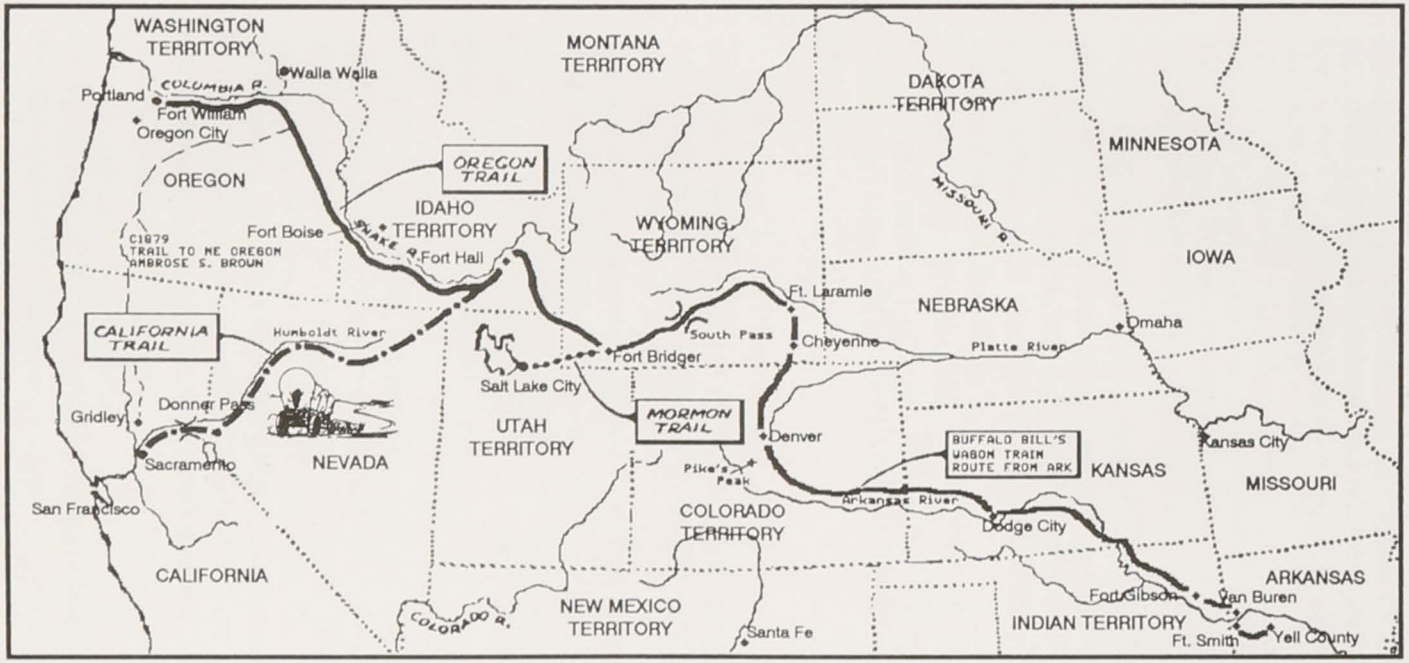
I hereby certify that the foregoing account is accurate and just; that I have not been absent without leave during any part of the time charged for: that I have not received pay, forage, or received money in lieu of any part thereof; for any part of the time charged; that I actually held the office and did duty in the Department; that I am not in arrears with the Confederate States on any account whatsoever.

–William J. Heffington, 2nd In. Liet.

I at the same time acknowledge that I have received of Captain S. Horne A.2.M this 15th day of May 1862 the sum of fifty dollars and seventy three cents being the amount in full of said account.

Pay 50.73

–William J. Heffington, 2nd Liet.
Co. F 17th Reg't Ark Vol.



Map by Loren Adams

Buffalo Bill's Wagon Train Taken by Arkansas Families in 1869

Wagonmaster Buffalo Bill Cody led Lorenzo K. and Ambrose S. Brown families from Fort Smith in March, 1869. They arrived in Butte County, Calif. that fall—settling in the Sacramento Valley area later known as Gridley. Lorenzo Brown established a ranch there. Several other Arkansas families and relatives joined Buffalo Bill's train, including some of Heffington's former soldiers. The Underwoods and Donahoos joined the wagon train at Fort Smith and Van Buren. Heffington's men were under constant threat in Arkansas after the war. There is a diary available telling of the adventures encountered by the wagon train group that Flashback hopes to publish in the future.

"Wild Bill had a hide-out in a cave on the side of Magazine Mountain. He could see his home from the cave area. He frequently watched to see red strings (fabric) that his wife would hang on a line or fence as a signal for him that all was clear and safe for him to come home for awhile. Evidently he did this because a daughter was born to Elizabeth Tennessee a few months after he died. The child was named William T.C. Heffington. She was called Aunt Will by the relatives."

–Letter from Marie Jackson of Booneville, AR, to Dr. & Mrs. Glen Farmer of Florence, Alabama, April 1979.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ARMY CIVIL WAR RECORDS

William J. Heffington, Co. I, 1 Arkansas Inf., Captain

Card Numbers: 11381332, 11381416, 11381501, 11381594, 11381760, 11382376, 34710122

William J. Heffington, Captain, Company I, 1st Arkansas Infantry, Age 33 years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated Fayetteville, March 20, 1863. Muster-in to date March 20, 1863

Joined for duty and enrolled March 20, 1863, Fayetteville, Ark., for Period of 3 years.

Remarks: Appointed March 20, 1863

Bixler, Copyist

Company Muster Roll for March 20th to April 30, 1863.

Present or absent: Absent

Remarks: On detached service; appointed March 20, 1863.

Company Muster Roll for May and June, 1863

Present or absent: Absent

Remarks: Appointed March 20, 1863, on detached service, cut off by the enemy April 15, 1863.

April 1863 to July 1863

Absent on detached service recruiting since April 17, 1863 in Johnson City, Ark.

Company Muster Roll for July & August 1863
Present or absent: Absent
Remarks: Appointed March 20, 1863; on detached service; since April 15, 1863, and probably killed by bushwhackers.

Aug 63 – Supposed to be killed by bushwhackers.

Company Muster Roll
for Sept. & Oct., 1863
Remarks: Killed on his way to Cassville, Mo., in Ark. Aug 15- 63

Company Muster-out Roll
Ft. Smith, Ark., Aug. 10, 1865
Last paid to: Pay dur fr. enlist
Remarks: Was Capt. from organization to Aug 15, 1863, then killed by the enemy in Crawford Co., Ark.
taken from May & June roll 1863

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
Washington, D.C.
April 9, 1863

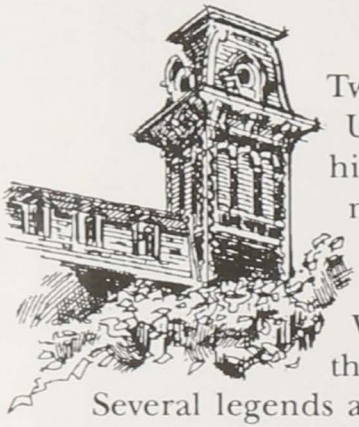
Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your Office of application for Pension No. 1441356, and to return it herewith, with such information as is furnished by the files of this Office.

It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office, that William J. Heffington was enrolled and mustered into service as a Captain on the 20th day of March 1863, at Fayetteville, Arkansas, in Company I, 1st Regiment of Arkansas Volunteers, to serve 3 years, or during the war. On the Muster Roll of Company I of that Regiment, dated August 10, 1865, he is reported killed by the enemy in Crawford County, August 15, 1863.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
(signed) Albert Breck
Assistant Adjutant General

The Towers and Legends of Old Main



By Don E. Schaefer

Two questions about Old Main at the University of Arkansas have puzzled historians, students, and alumni for many years. Why were the locations of towers of Old Main switched from those in the original plans? Why is the north tower taller than the south tower?

Several legends about the towers of Old Main have been told and repeated over the years. One is that the construction foreman was drunk and misread the plans. Another is that the plans were accidentally reversed when they were copied for use in Arkansas, and another is that the architect, from the north, wanted the taller tower to be the north tower. The other "Yankee plot" is that the north tower was built higher because the north won the Civil War. There are many variations. Perhaps you have a favorite one.

Have you always thought that there was a good reason that the towers were built the way they were and that all the stories were just made up? Your hunch was right. The real story can be told now.

The Plans for Old Main

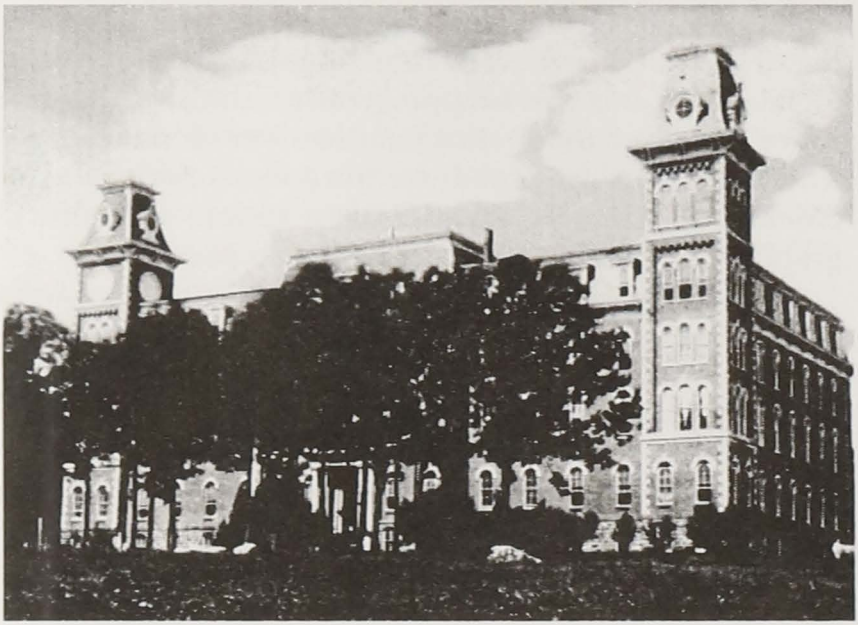
In November of 1871 the McIlroy farm in Fayetteville was selected as the site for Arkansas Industrial University, the state's new land-grant university. Classes were started in January of 1872 in a temporary two-story frame building. Another two-story frame building was added during the summer of 1872.

Old Main at the University of Illinois was torn down in the late 1930s. Notice the two towers which appear to be the same height. *(University of Illinois Archives)*

After examining several plans and other university buildings, the Board of Trustees at a meeting in April of 1873, decided to model the University's new building after one that had just been completed for Illinois Industrial University (later the University of Illinois) at Urbana. Copies of plans and specifications of the Illinois building were purchased from its architect, John Mills Van Osdel of Chicago. Construction on the new permanent building was started later that year.

The Board was very concerned about the exact location of the new building and the minutes of two July Board meetings show that they wanted the new building facing due east and situated in the vicinity of the temporary buildings.

The placement of the new University building on the



This is Old Main in Fayetteville about 1880. There are windows in the north tower for viewing from the observation deck. *(Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville)*

property and facing it to the east was an excellent choice. This large, impressive building would be facing east toward the city of Fayetteville and be situated slightly on the east side of the crest of a prominent hill.

Specifications were for a North-Facing Building

The written specifications for Old Main were evidently the very same ones prepared for the Illinois building. The building in Urbana faced north. For example, the towers are referred to in the specifications as the northeast tower and the northwest tower. See the photograph of the Illinois building (page 28) which shows its tower configuration. Notice the clock tower is on the right and the bell tower is on the left. Those are the northwest and northeast towers, respectively, on the Illinois build-

ing and in the specifications used for the Arkansas building. However, the rotation of the building in Fayetteville to face east and the swapping of locations of the bell tower and clock tower changed the tower identifications. The bell tower remained the northeast tower and the clock tower became the southeast tower. See photograph of the Old Main in Fayetteville on page 29.

The original design showing the height of the towers would have been depicted in the architectural drawings. The specifications do not give the height of the towers. Unfortunately, the original drawings were destroyed or lost, but copies of the specifications still exist.

What happened when Old Main was constructed in Fayetteville? Why were the tower locations switched! Why is the north tower taller?

Contractor Reports Tower Switch

Simple answers to the tower questions may be found in the minutes of the January 13, 1874, meeting of the Board of Trustees where a report of the work on the new University building was given by John A. McKay, the supervising architect. His report included this about the towers of the building:

> " . . . I would suggest the changing of the towers so as to have the clock tower on the southeast corner, instead of the northeast, as shown on the plans. By this change the clock will show much better from desired points, and this change will also be advantageous to the other tower, for purposes intended."

Thus, the clock tower was switched to the south so that the clock could be seen better from the city of Fayetteville which was to the southeast of Old Main. The bell tower had an observation deck built above the level of the bell; therefore, there would be an advantage in

placing it on the north. Originally, there were windows in the north tower at the observation level. Perhaps it was felt that this location of the bell (and observation) tower further north on the building site would be a better place for viewing the countryside all around. This would in fact explain why the north tower is higher than the south tower. The greater height of the observation deck made for a better view.

Old Main Had the Best View

The view from the top of Old Main is indeed breathtaking on a clear day. One can imagine what effect it had on viewers before the days of airplanes or many tall buildings. A correspondent for the Springfield, Mo., *Daily Herald* had this to say in the June 15, 1883 edition after a visit to Fayetteville:

> "The Arkansas Industrial University is the most marked feature of Fayetteville. In company with two young ladies, graduates of the University, and a friend, I made a pilgrimage out there this morning. As I approached the building I was surprised to see so large a structure. It is a magnificent pile of brick. The situation is beautiful and commands a view far surpassing any I have ever seen. For a University the site could not be equaled. A view from the highest tower is grand and sweeping, commanding stretches of hills and valleys, and one which haunts us ever-after, as does a passion."

Pierce Taylor, a University student from Paragould had this to say about Old Main in a letter back home in 1901 and printed in the *Fayetteville Democrat:*

> ". . . From the top of the building there is perhaps a more extensive view than from any other point in Arkansas. . . . It is a grand view one must admit, and a

view that will convince anyone that the country is good to look upon if for nothing else."

What about the towers of the Old Main built in Illinois that appear to be of equal height? Who's to say that the Illinois builders did not deviate from the plans and specifications to make their towers equal heights? If the building in Arkansas was modeled after the one in Illinois, and the same specifications were used, it is logical to assume that it was the specifications that were followed and not the actual building.

All the plans for the placement of the clock tower so it "will show better from desired points" have been for naught. No clock or clock works have ever been put in the clock tower of Old Main. Blocking up the windows in the north tower's observation deck in 1949 with speakers for electronic bells surely negated the plans for that feature of the towers, too.

Do legends die when the facts are known? Probably not. Legends are still more fun to tell, and not nearly as boring.

Genealogy Department Expands at Central Arkansas Library Systems

The Genealogy Research Department, a division of the Central Arkansas Library Systems is expanding and moving it's genealogy collection along with the microfilm services.

The systems has recently purchased the census rolls for the state of Arkansas from 1830-1920 and the Civil War military records for Arkansas soldiers serving in both the Confederate and Union Armies. The census records are available now and the military records later this summer. Further information is available by calling Laurie Ann Ross, (501) 370-5954.

A LONG JOURNEY HOME

by Martha Wood Bentley

It had been a long and difficult journey the John Thomas Reynolds' family undertook the summer of 1877. Traveling from Memphis by wagon through the Boston Mountains was hard on Captain Reynolds' wife, Emma, and their six children. But he had heard of Boonsboro (Cane Hill) from several of his Confederate comrades who had settled there and he was anxious to arrive and start life anew.

He was born near Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1834 on the same land his ancestor, Christopher Reynolds, patented in 1636. Christopher arrived in Virginia on the John and Francis in 1622 and had been one of the 33 survivors of the Good Friday Indian massacre the same year. [1] Eventually he became a landowner and a member of the House of Burgess. [2]

Capt. John T. Reynolds' great-grandfather, Sharp Reynolds, had also owned this land during the American Revolution while he served as a lieutenant in Capt. Thomas Pierce's Company in 1777 and in 1778 when he again took the oath to serve in Capt. Goodrich Willson's Company. Again Sharp, at a court held July 14, 1782, was ordered to serve in Capt. Thomas Smith's Company, Isle of Wight County, VA.[3] The VA Publick Claims, Isle of Wight County in 1782 list Sharp furnishing, "17 1/4 bushels of corn; 200 diets, 100 forrages" and again, "5 1/2 bu corn, 200 diets, 100 forrages for services done". Sharp's son and John T.'s grandfather, Henry Reynolds, was born on this plantation c. 1780, died and was buried there. Henry served in the War of 1812 as a private in the 29th Regiment of VA Militia[4].

John T. Reynolds was only three when his grandfather, Henry, died in 1837. His grandmother, Mary Powell

Reynolds, had died several years earlier and Henry had remarried. Henry's unexpected death left many unpaid, planting bills, no will and a second wife, Lily, to satisfy. The only way to settle matters, the second wife and the creditors, was to sell the land and the plantation[5].

By 1850 the family had moved to Norfolk, VA. That year's census lists John T. Reynolds, age 17, living at home with his father and mother Sharp Reynolds (II) and Mary Parker Russell

Reynolds had four younger brothers and one younger sister. Sharp's occupation was listed as a mariner. He was a ship's captain with his own plantation outside Norfolk as well as a home in Norfolk.[6] This was all before the Civil War. By the year 1867 all property was destroyed or lost and Sharp Reynolds was dead.

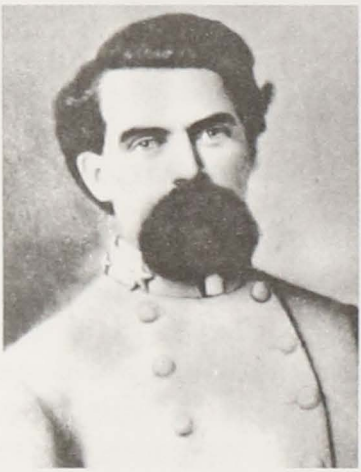
After the war with a few years in Memphis where the fear of a yellow fever outbreak was always present, Reynolds was finally on his way to Northwest Arkansas. Charles Irwin and Henry C. Carter, old comrades-in-arms, would be there to greet him.[7] Charlie had served in Reynolds' Co. H, 64th NC Infantry and had been with him when both were captured at Cumberland Gap in September, 1863. He, however, escaped while Charlie was sent to prison near Chicago and where he would later tell of the prisoners being fed a mash, "from troughes like hogs".

The Cumberland Gap escape through the mountains was the second time Reynolds eluded the Yankees. The first escape was at Shiloh in April, 1862 when he was with the 29th TN Infantry.

The outbreak of the war found Reynolds in Greeneville, TN and in love with Emma (Emily) Elizabeth Cozart. She was 16 and he 27. They were married August 7, 1861. Two weeks later he enlisted for one year at Henderson Mills as a private. Six weeks later he was

promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major and on March 28, 1862 he was appointed adjutant.[8]

"The first year of the war I was adjutant of an infantry regiment. It was too slow for my disposition then. On the battlefield at Shiloh Gen'l Beauregard promoted me and signed a petition to the Secretary of War to issue me a commission in the Partisan Ranger Service. Hence, I was on independent and detached service a great portion of my time. Being on such duty I often ran into independent or detached portions of the Federal Army. In East Tennessee it was a regular black flag business between such commands. When I was captured the last time and held as a prisoner–I was captured three times during the war but escaped twice–I was placed in close confinement and charges preferred against me for being a guerilla and brigand and I was condemned and sentenced but I succeeded in winning liberty."



Capt. John Thomas Reynolds, C.S.A.

He had enlisted again, this time as a Captain, at Evans Crossroads on Aug. 23, 1862 with the 64th NC Infantry. Almost two years later while on conscription service in Greene County, TN he was captured by the First Tennessee Cavalry (Union). The date was April 15, 1864 at a place called Bull's Gap. He was taken to a federal prison in Knoxville where he was to remain for 22 months, confined in irons in a cage eight feet square.[9] On Aug. 29, 1865 he wrote the following letter to a younger brother, Henry, who, after three years in the 6th VA Infantry, had been discharged and was living in Richmond.

Knoxville, East Tennessee
August 29th, 1865

My Dear Brother Henry:

My wife, my whole heart's idol, returned to me day before yesterday, and handed me your kind letter, which you gave her for me; it was a great comfort to me, as it breathed forth to my thirsty heart love of dear ones at home.

I am inclined for the first time to be dispondent (c.q.), but a determination, if the Lord is willing, to live for those who are all that is worth living for, buoys me up and serves me with the great assistance of encouragement from my angel wife, to throw off disability and preserve what you have accorded me and what my enemies have been compelled to and ever shall acknowledge, manhood. Though I confess I am sore distressed to see such efforts and such toil as my dearest of all has put forth without avail, for her sake I would died a thousand deaths, while living.

How unmanly and inhuman mankind has become, that in the face of justice, humanity, good of country and pleadings of a pure hearted woman. Self is the all-controlling passion, and charity and duty to fellow man are stunned and disregarded. Is this the great Christian and enlightened age? God forbid!

Is this the way to conciliate and bring prodigals to their parent roof? If so, I have most surely misconstrued the teaching of Holy Writ, and profited nothing by studying it, but yet I have hope that the great Disposer of events will shine forth in His Majesty in His own proper time, and place into poor weak and sinful man His sense of Charity and duty.

As for my case, I cannot see upon what grounds my persecution can be based, unless it is upon that, the most damnable of all passions–Revenge. I know it cannot be either legal or Christian, for mine stands thus: From the first encounter with the Federal army to the last, I endeavored with my whole capacity to show to my opponents that I was fighting upon true national principles and upon human grounds.

It is true the men that I commanded did some very gallant

and sometimes considered desperate things, for they were ready and capable to dare to do anything that brave and honest men would do, which, altho' it incited the thorough hatred and revenge from some few of my enemys (c.q.), it drew forth from the true, generous and brave opponents to our cause, respect which I desire to have from both friend and foe, and have tried my very best to command it by treating my enemys (c.q.) kindly, when in my power; after I was captured the last time (for I have been captured three times, but never held over 24 hours, until the last time) I was charged with being a guerilla and tried as such.

Now let me show you what I proved and what was admitted before that court, and I having no counsel nor other evidence than I could procure inside the Federal lines, which extended only about 15 miles from the city toward the then Confederacy. My commission and written orders were shown to the court to certify that I was a regular officer of the Confederate Army, acting under written orders when captured and my men included in the order.

They admitted that my conduct while on duty in the department had been that of an officer and a gentleman, and that my command had been orderly soldiers; that I had given general protection to private property of all parties, both southern and Union and that my treatment to prisoners had been humane and kind; also, I compelled the court to admit that the main witness against me had made a false statement, therefore by law, cancelled his whole testimony. Still in the face of all this, the court (although they did not find me a guerilla, but admitted that I was a regular officer) condemned me to be hanged. I made a written reply (as I had no counsel) in my defense, and the whole was forwarded to Major General Schofield, the then commandant of this department, who squashed the whole thing as being irregular and illegal, and ordered me to be released. I was then told that I could not be released as I was an officer, and must be sent off to be exchanged for one of theirs, which would be done the first opportunity.

In a few weeks after I was notified by Brig. Gen 'l. Carter, Provost Mar.-Gen. of the Department, East Tennessee., through the command of this prison, that I would be sent off with the first batch of prisoners going north for exchange. Some 25 or 30 prisoners were sent off and as my name was not on the list, I was still detained–of which I complained to the Pro. Mar., and in reply to my communication, he informed me that I was turned over to the civil authorities to be tried for treason(this long before the fall of Richmond). I then made a complaint to Maj. Gen'l. Thomas, the successor to Gen'l Schofield, in regard to my treatment, and he replied by informing me that I was still held by the military and as hostage for one Capt. Harris of the Federal Army, and would be subject to the same treatment he received. Not long after this, Capt. Harris was released and was on the streets of Knoxville. As soon as I heard of his release, (Harris') I again communicated with Gen'l Thomas, stating the fact of Harris being at liberty, and asked for a release or to be sent off for exchange. From this communication I never heard, and when the Federal court for this district met last June, I was brought (with many other officers over my rank and citizens who held office in the Confederate States), before the judge (Connally F. Trigg) and in every case, with one exception, but myself was bailed–and here I am yet. They do not expect to do much with me on this charge of treason, but they want to keep me, in prison, it seems.

Since the surrender of Lee and Johnson, returned Confederates have been shot down for no other crime than being in the Confederate Army.

Now you see the time I have had and what I have ahead of me to contend with. I do not intend to remain in Tennessee any longer than I can get out of it, if I am released, but I will assure you they are going to use every mode, known to man, to keep me here and inflict the most barbarous treatment that they possible can. You people down in Virginia know nothing of a reign of terror, but we have it here equal to those days memorable in

French history, and I think it is the duty of the whole United States press to combine in crushing out such tyranny.

Give my love to all at home and to Annie. Tell all to write, and if you can get any one in Richmond to appeal to President Johnson, in my behalf, it might do me some good.

Your brother

(John T. Reynolds)

December 1866 finds Reynolds still languishing in prison and in extremely poor health "owing to long confinement". However, he had one more trick up his sleeve and it worked! By his feigning insanity the U.S. Circuit Court at Knoxville ordered that the case be suspended and directed that he be delivered into the care and control of his friends.[10] As soon as he was released he was on his way to Cuba where he remained three months before returning to Norfolk.

Three years later on Feb. 17, 1869 he was again in Knoxville. However, this time he was filing a plea to the U.S. Circuit Court to have the treason charges against him dismissed based upon the "pardon and amnesty granted under the President's Proclamation of Dec. 25, 1868." The court ordered that the presentments against him be dismissed.[11]

He was finally free! He wasn't staying in Eastern Tennessee, however. There was nothing left for him in Norfolk. So the year 1869 found him in Memphis with his ever growing family. He was a talented artist and during those hard years following the war he managed to earn a living by decorating the interiors of fancy railroad cars and by painting homes.

But now he was on his way to Boonsboro, Ark. Virginia and Mattie, the two eldest children, would be able to enroll at Cane Hill College in the fall[12]. He

would try his hand at farming, but that profession really didn't interest him. Maybe they would move to Fayetteville later. Arkansas Industrial University would be there for the children and they would be close to their friends in Boonsboro. Anyway, they were almost there. He was almost home!

Post Script: John Thomas Reynolds was to try farming for two years before moving his family to Fayetteville. At first he returned to his old occupation of house painting while becoming active in civic affairs. He was elected to the school board and in 1886 he served on a committee that arranged the first Confederate reunion held at Prairie Grove, site of the last major battle fought in Northwest Arkansas.[13] In 1887 at a regular meeting of the City Council, Mayor O. C. Gray appointed Reynolds as a special police at the Frisco Depot and the marshall appointed Reynolds deputy marshall. At a Democratic mass meeting held Oct. 4, 1887 he was elected to the City Council Executive Committee representing the Third Ward. [14] On April 6, 1888 the Fayetteville Democrat reported "Col. J. H. Van Hoose, the Independent nominee for mayor and Capt. J. T. Reynolds, the Democratic nominee for City Marshall, had been elected".

In 1884 Mary Virginia (Jenny) Reynolds, the Reynolds' eldest child, born 1863 in Greeneville, TN married Dr. Thomas Welch Blackburn (1859-1932) in Fayetteville. Dr. Blackburn is credited with performing the first appendectomy in Washington County.[15] He practiced in Cane Hill, Lincoln and later, Stilwell, OK. The Blackburns had five children who survived infancy; Rowena Bergenstall, Julia Earls, Gen. T. Welch, Jr., Ruth Hedges and Reynolds (Gilly). The five children were mostly reared in the lovely two-story frame home built by

the Blackburns on Main Street, next to the old Presbyterian Church, Cane Hill.

The same year (1884) found Mattie Reynolds, the second child, born 1867 in Jefferson County, TN in the A Class of the Arkansas Industrial University. She is listed in the University's 1885-86 catalog, Preparatory Department, Sub-Freshman Class as well as the 1887-88 sophomore class. At the end of her sophomore year she graduated with a degree of Licentiate of Instruction (L.I).

After graduation Mattie moved to Van Buren where by January 1890 she headed one of the departments of the Van Buren High School. On Feb. 23, 1891 she married Jess Wood of Van Buren (1864-1902). Jess was a graduate of the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio. Disposing of his interest in the mercantile business in Van Buren, he accepted a position as traveling salesman for Roberts, Johnston and Rand Shoe Company of St. Louis (INTERCO). When he died, age 38, he was the leading salesman as well as stockholder. His mother, Sophronia Wood, and his two sisters, Miss Margaret and Miss Norma, would later build the Wood Memorial Christian Church in Van Buren.

When Jess Wood died, Mattie moved to Los Angeles, CA with her four children: Harry Reynolds, Melba, Virginia and Margaret. Mattie died in 1940 and is buried in Los Angeles.

The third child of J. T. Reynolds was Fay, born 1869 in Memphis. She too graduated from the University of Arkansas and then taught school in Claremore, OK. She married Dr. Jesse Curry Bushyhead in 1898. Dr. Bushyhead practiced medicine for over 50 years in Claremore. He was the son of Dennis Wolf Bushyhead, a chief of the Cherokees. He was the last treasurer of the Cherokee Nation and was admitted to the Oklahoma

Hall of Fame with his first cousin, Will Rogers.[16] Dr. Bushyhead's mother was Elizabeth Oowala Adair Schrinaker, aunt of Will Rogers. The Bushyheads had five children: Oowala Elizabeth Riggs, Edward Reynolds, Jesse Curry, Jr., Dennis Wolf and George Davis. Fay died in 1950 and is buried in Claremore.

During 1889 J. T. Reynolds' health began to fail. An operation revealed throat cancer. He tried to maintain the duties of City Marshall until his term of office expired, but could not. On Nov. 6, 1889 he purchased a farm from Ellen R. Wilbur located south of Cane Hill. He wanted to spend his remaining days there as well as leave his family a home with some means of a livelihood.

The surgery he had undergone left him unable to speak. His oldest son, Paul, had been born physically handicapped. In a note to Norfolk, his fifth child, he scribbled, "Norfolk, I want to talk to you seriously and for your own good. I do not see any chance for you to go to school longer than the first of April 1890. My term of office will expire then and I am not able to work any longer. Therefore you will not be able to go to school any longer. It will be well for you to use every hour you can to learn all you can for it may be your last opportunity to go to school. I don't know how you can ever go again as your Mother will not be able to send you. I am very sorry this is the case but it is your misfortune and you must make the most of it you can. You will be soon be on your own resources. You will soon have to get down to hard work. It will be a great help to you to learn to think of what you have to do and what you may do to forward your work and keep ahead of it. Always push your work and do not let it push you. If you do your work will get the best of you and you will be behind and therefore the loser."

John Reynolds did not live to April. He died Jan. 18,

1890. Norfolk, born 1872 in Memphis, was 18 at the time of his father's death. He remained and managed the farm until he married Catherine McCluer, (1872-1968) in 1906. She was teaching school in Okmulgee, OK but was from Cane Hill and had been a student at Cane Hill College when two of Norf's sisters, Fay and Hattie, were there. Catherine was the daughter of Rev. Uncus McCluer and his first wife, Charlotte Watkins.

At the urging of John and Bess Kirby Allen, Norfolk and family moved to Brea, CA in 1911. (Booth Campbell, another Cane Hill native, also moved to Brea for a few years). Norfolk died in 1944 and is buried in Fullerton, CA. He and Catherine had three children: John McCluer, Florence and Kenneth Lewellyn.

During 1911, shortly after Norfolk left for California, Emma Reynolds went to live with the Bushyhead family in Claremore and Paul Reynolds went to live with Hattie Reynolds Crew in Tahlequah, OK. He died that same year.

Hattie, the youngest, was born in 1875 in Memphis. She was 15 at the time of her father's death. She married Jesse Batty Crew (1872-1943) of Tahlequah in 1901. Mr. Crew owned and managed drugstores in Oklahoma. Hattie died in 1936 and is buried in Tahlequah. The Crews had two sons: Robert and Jesse, Jr.

Emma Reynolds died in 1918 in Claremore. She and the Captain are buried in the Cane Hill Cemetery, near the top of the hill, beside their son, Paul. Nearby is their eldest, Jenny, her husband and three of Jenny's children. In this quiet cemetery rest many of the Captain's old comrades-in–arms, Charlie Irwin and Henry Carter, among them.

**The author is the granddaughter of Mattie Reynolds Wood and the great-granddaughter of Captain Reynolds.*

Footnotes to "A Long Journey Home":

1. Boddie, John Bennett, 17th Cent. Isle of Wight Co.,, VA pp 35, 87
2. Henning, Vol. I, pp 371-373, National Society of Colonial Dames of America in VA, pp, 77, 1979
3. VA Military Records, Genealogical Pub. Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1983, pp 190-194
4. Military Entitled to Land Bounty, Auditor's Office, Richmond, VA 1851, p. 366
5. Isle of Wight Co., VA Deed Book 32, pp 420-425
6. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., VA City Directories, Norfolk 1851-52, 1859-60. (Microfilm, Roll 1: p. 73, pp 107 and 95
7. Mrs. E. E. Reynolds' 1901 Arkansas Confederate Pension Application.
8. Military Service Record for John T. Reynolds, Co. F., 29th TN Infantry, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
9. Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series 2, Vol. 7, Washington, D. C. pp. 561, 929, 1112 and Vol. 8 pp 87, 208, 389.
10. National Archives, Southeast Region, East Point, GA Minute Bk., B, 1865-70, U.S. Circuit Court, Knoxville, Eastern Dist., TN, (53A643#44)
11. Ibid.
12. Flashback, Nov. 1954, pp 11
13. Ibid., Dec. 1962, p. 15
14. Fayetteville Democrat, Sept. 16, Oct. 4, 1887.
15. Miller, Conrow R. The Cane Hill Story 1825-1969 pp 62-63
16. Claremore Progress, July 15, 1942

A Big Thanks to Bob Pyeatt

From: *Nancy Maxwell, 7793 E. Elk Creek Rd., Tucson, AZ 85715-7033.* The May issue of *Flashback* came today with my statement about the disturbance of the Pyeatt-Mason Cemetery in Maumelle. I have good news to report concerning Bob Pyeatt's attempt to prevent further damage to the cemetery. Briefly, Bob has been in contact with Philip Patterson, city manager of Maumelle and Mr. Patterson promised Bob that the cemetery will be restored and fenced and have a recognition day when the job is complete. Mr. Patterson has applied for a grant for this purpose. Because of Bob's efforts, a significant part of Arkansas history has been preserved.

Thank you for letting your readers know about this situation. Bob is proof that one person can make a difference.

Robert Keene, Lincoln, AR 501-824-4818. I am seeking information on Elder **T. T. BELL** who performed marriages around 1877. Also, the **McHINNION** family living in Washington County, Ark. in 1877.

Claudine Mulhern, P. O. Box 311126 New Braunfels, TX 78131-1126. I am looking for the children of **SAMUEL WILSON, JR.** (1800-died before 1870 census) and wife, **NANCY KYLE** (1803-died before 1850 census). They were married circa 1818 in Hawkins County, Tenn. In the 1840 census they had two male and three female children. I have one child, **ROBERT KYLE WILSON,** born circa 1825 in Hawkins County, Tenn.

I have this information to share if any one needs it:

#1 **SAMUEL WILSON,** b. about 1740 Accomac, Va. He married **___BROOKS** about 1762. They moved to Hawkins County, Tenn. around this time. Children were **SAMUEL II; MARY INGRAM; ELIZABETH; CASTLETON** and **MARTHA.** There may be others. Samuel I died 1814 at Hickory Cove, Hawkins County, Tenn.

#2 **SAMUEL WILSON, JR.** and family moved to Washington County, Ark. about 1835 from Hawkins County, Tenn. They sold their plantation to a daughter and her husband and the rest of the family moved to Arkansas. They bought over a thousand acres about three miles out of Fayetteville.

#3 **SAMUEL WILSON,** and Nancy Kyle were on the 1840 Census at Prairie Township, Washington County, Ark. The family indicated shows one male from 10 to 15 years; one male from 15 to 20 years; one male from 40 to 50 years; one female from five to ten years; three females

from 15 to 20 years and one female 30 to 40 years.

I need to know the names of these children because on the 1850 census **SAMUEL, JR.** is with his parents:

Samuel Wilson, 75...Male...Tenn
Mary Wilson, 71.....Female...Tenn
Samuel Wilson, 51...Male.....Tenn

Nancy probably died and the children died or left home during this ten year period.

In the 1850 Census of Ball Township, Benton County, Ark. I find:

#116 K. Wilson	25	m	Tenn
Nancy Wilson	23	f	Tenn (wife was Nancy Fleming)
William	2m	m	Ark

They had a daughter, Serena, in 1851 in Arkansas. In 1857 they were on the tax rolls in Milam County, Tex. I have their children, Nancy, who died in 1869, age 38, and Robert Kyle Wilson who died in 1870 at the age of 49.

Sue Ericksen, 3673 Lombard Lp Rd, Zillah, WA 98953. I am looking for information about **WILLIAM N. CARLILE** and his parents. He was born April 1, 1802 in South Carolina. He came to Washington County in the 1820s. He died Mar. 16, 1875 and is buried in the Elm Springs Cemetery. His first wife, **ELIZABETH,** was born 1804 in Arkansas, as were all their children. He married his second wife, **NANCY BATES,** in 1853. His children from his first marriage are: **JAMES KELM,** born Nov. 27, 1829; **HESTER,** b. 1834: **THOMAS,** b. about 1836; **STEPHEN,** b. about 1836; **ELIZABETH,** born 1840 and **ROBERT,** b. 1843. He also had a son, **STEWART**(?) born in the mid 1820s and a daughter born 1827. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Susan Smith Westcott, 20040 SE 19th St., Issaquah, WA 98027. I am searching for information on my great-great-grandfather and his family. His name is

ARCHIBALD G. SMITH, born 1823 in Indiana and died 20 Dec. 1886 in Arkansas. He married **HANNAH STILL (STILE)** c. 1845. They had two sons; **DANIEL ALEXANDER SMITH,** born May 1846 and died 18 March 1923, and **JOHN SMITH,** born 1849 and died 1862-1865 during the Civil War. They lived in Prairie Township and in Clear Creek Township from about 1845 through 1890. Archibald was known as Archie and he was a wagon maker and blacksmith there. His son **DANIEL** was in the Arkansas Cavalry during the Civil War and married **NANCY JANE WILLIS** and moved to Oden, Ark. in 1900. Anyone having information can call me collect at (206) 3491-3752 or write to the above address.

Laura White, P. O. Box 5, Oologah, OK 74053. About 12-13 years ago I purchased a quilt top from a flea market on Highway 71 at Lowell, Ark. I am a quilt lover but this one appealed to me mainly because it was dated the year I was born. It is pieced from feed sack materials. I recently found some plain and printed feed sacks at a garage sale and backed the quilt with white feed sacking. I had it machine quilted and then bound it with print sacking. Its finished size is 58" x 72".

An antique dealer here in Claremore has placed a fairly high value on it but I am not really interested in selling it. I would like to keep it myself, but I feel like it should be back with its original owner, if living, or a family member who would treasure it. My mother pieced and quilted beautiful quilts and after her death I ended up without one of her quilts.

Following is a list of names and dates embroidered on the blocks: **MARJORIE SHAW,** 1936; **PATTY MUDROW?** 1936; **THELMA SANFORD,** 1936; **CAROL JEAN McCOWAN; BETTY LOU BOTT, ANNA McCOWAN,** 1936; **SHIRLEY GREENQUIST; OPAL MCCOWAN,**

1936; **K. MUNNAY, EMMA BANTON,** 1937; **GRANMA DAY,** 1936; **BETTY DAY,** 1936; **MARTHA DAY,** 1936. Given names on blocks are Margie, Charlie, Kathlene, Herbie, Violet, Tom, Olive, Dixie, Darlene, Marie, Pansy, Duane, Beverly, Linda, Connie, Steve, Ruth, Billy, Ruby, Alma, Marian, Dorothy, Karen, Tommy, Ann and Timmy.

Hopefully someone will recognize some of the names and it can be returned to its "family " or I can learn its history.

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Memorial Donations

These memorial donations to the Washington County Historical Society have been recently received.

In the name of
Jane Smith Jones
by Lois L. Morris

In the name of
Jane Smith Jones
by James, Allison, Ted, and Jennifer Elston

In the name of
Jane Smith Jones
by Jean and Keith Newhouse

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